

disclosed invention.

Respectfully submitted



Guido MODIANO
(Reg. No. 19,928)
Agent for the Applicant
Via Meravigli, 16
20123 MILANO – ITALY
Tel.: +39-02-85907777

Milan, Italy – August 7, 2001

Encls.: a.a.

20010807 14:22:00

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

22. A method of preparing a plant cultivation, particularly a lawn, comprising, also in a different time sequence, the following operating steps:

-- preparing a seeding bed and introducing seeds therein;

5 -- dividing the seeding bed into sods;

-- cohesion treatment, whereby the resulting sod is not brittle, makes it possible to maintain a geometric shape and allows proper handling until the laying step is completed;

-- laying the sod and

10 -- moistening the sod before or after laying and regular watering afterwards, wherein said seeding bed is prepared using dry materials and before laying the sod a drying step is performed on the sod.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein, after drying, the sod is packaged in a suitable package for its preservation, storage and transport, preferably under vacuum.

24. The method according to claim 22, wherein said preparation of a seeding bed comprises the dosage of the components and the mixing thereof.

25. The method according to claim 22, wherein said preparation of a seeding bed is obtained by depositing successive layers of various components.

26. The method according to claim 22, wherein said division into sods occurs by molding the mix in a template, die or by extrusion in the chosen sod shape.

27. The method according to claim 22, wherein said division into sods occurs by die-cutting.

28. The method according to claim 22, wherein said seed introduction is carried out by implantation with a seeding machine.

29. The method according to claim 22, wherein said introduction of seeds is carried out by depositing a layer of seeds.

30. The method according to claim 22, wherein said drying is

nondestructive and reduces the percentage of humidity in the seeding bed to the point at which seed germination is no longer possible and tends to preserve the possibility of rapid future revival of microorganisms activity without degrading the natural and chemical organic substances present in the seeding bed.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein said drying is performed by exposure in a ventilated greenhouse.

32. The method according to claim 30, wherein said drying is provided by means of low-temperature heat sources and by air change.

33. The method according to claim 24, wherein said cohesion treatment is performed by adding a bonding agent during mixing.

34. The method according to claim 33, wherein said cohesion treatment is performed by laying a layer of adhesive on the entire outer surface of said sod.

35. A sod for cultivating plants, obtained with the method according to claim 22, comprising a seeded seeding bed including a fertilizer and wrapped or at least held together by a suitable organic bonding agent so as to maintain its shape.

36. The sod according to claim 35, wherein said bonding agent is biodegradable.

37. The sod according to claim 35, wherein said bonding agent comprises at least one colloidal substance.

38. The sod according to claim 37, wherein said bonding agent comprises glue of vegetable or animal origin.

39. The sod according to claim 38, wherein said seeding bed comprises soil which includes mineral substances and at least one organic substance.

40. The sod according to claim 39, wherein said organic substance comprises one or more fertilizers.

41. The sod according to claim 40, comprising at least one selective herbicide which hinders the germination and growth of plants which are